

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

2790 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123

Tel: (415) 929-0862; Fax: (415) 929-0306;

www.consulrussia.cjb.net; consulsf@ix.netcom.com

USEFUL ADVICE FOR TRAVELERS TO RUSSIA

Dear Sir or Madam

Having received your visa, and before traveling to Russia, please follow the advice below to insure a pleasant and untroubled arrival, stay and departure.

I. Check your visa by typed line as follows:

1st: «обыкновенная» designates «regular visa» assigned either for business or private visa (on blue paper). A digit or a letter/digit code is assigned for tourist visas made on peach colored paper.

2nd: «въездная-выездная» designates «single entry/exit»,
«двукратная» - «double entry/exit»,
«трехкратная» - «triple entry/exit»,
«многократная» - «multiple re-entry» may appear on top right-hand visa corners overlapped with circular stamps;
typed dash (-) may appear on tourist visas

3rd: «Гр. США» indicated «US citizen», or «Подданный Японии» - «Japanese subject», etc.

4th: «фамилия» indicates your last name

5th: «имя, отчество (имена)» indicates your first, middle and other names

6th: «дата рождения» indicates date/month/year of birth; «пол» indicates sex: «муж» (M), «жен» (F)

7th: «с детьми до 16 лет» indicates «accompanied by children under 16»; «одна/один» indicates «traveling alone»; if traveling with children, for example, «Дэвид 1985» indicates «David born in 1985»

8th: «цель поездки» indicates «purpose of your trip to Russia»

9th: «в учреждение» indicates «inviting department, agency, organization or business in Russia»

10th: «в пункты» effective October 1, 1998 this line is not filled up

11th: «действительна для въезда с» indicates «entry from: date/month/year»

12th: «пребывания и выезда до» indicates «stay and exit before or on»: date/month/year

13th: «через пограничные пункты, открытые для пассажирского движения» indicates «entry through the border checkpoints open for passenger traffic»; typed dash (-) means «all such border check points»

14th: «к паспорту» indicates «bearer's passport #»

II. Visa can be extended by sending it to this office with a new confirmation (invitation) extending your stay in Russia, \$40.00 amendment fee and a self-addressed pre-paid envelope or by a Russian host, travel agent or hotel manager. Extension is done either by changing the departure date or by two endorsements on the right and left sides of the visa back with a new departure date from Russia, signatures and circular seals.

III. Always keep your visa pinned to your passport.

IV. Make two sets of copies of your passport, visa and other travel papers and keep them separately one in your luggage and another in your office or with your family or friends.

V. Keep your passport, visa and valuables in a safe place.

VI. When planning to stay in Russia for over 90 days make sure to obtain an HIV Test Certificate. You are supposed to display it to medical officer at a Russian border checkpoint if requested. Such a certificate is not necessary when traveling for a lesser period of time, or when carrying a multiple entry visa.

VII. When traveling with your pet you are required to obtain an international health certificate from a US veterinary doctor.

VIII. It is advisable to have medical insurance coverage valid in Russia. Check your medical plan and request such coverage if you do not have it. On the basis of reciprocity, citizens of Estonia, Israel,

Finland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain are required to have mandatory medical insurance.

IX. Medical drugs can be brought to Russia in quantities sufficient for personal consumption during your stay

X. Military-type firearms, narcotic drugs, explosives, radioactive, poisonous and other dangerous substances are prohibited to import to Russia.

XI. Travelers carrying sport-guns or shotguns in their luggage must receive special permits through their Russian agents to take them in and out of the country.

XII. Foreign travelers can bring to Russia their photo and video cameras, binoculars, laptop computers, etc. tax free if these are to be taken out of the country upon departure. Just mention them in your customs declaration or ask a customs officer.

XIII. Travelers over 16 years of age can take to Russia tobacco products (1000 cigarettes or equivalent), wines & liquors (5 ltr.) tax-free.

XIV. There is no limitation on the amount of foreign currency to be taken to Russia. Just mention in your customs declaration all your currency over \$1500.00 and other valuables, including objects of art, which you take into the country. Keep the declaration to present it to a customs officer upon your departure.

XV. Prior to your departure for the airport to fly to Russia, please, check your passport, visa and other papers again. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us. When calling, have last name of the travelers and their dates of birth ready.

XVI. The Consulate cannot be held responsible for any errors in visas not brought to its attention before your departure from the US.

We wish you a very pleasant trip!

VISA DESK